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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Group Art Unit 2838
Nepela : Examiner R. Patel
Serial No. :
Filed: February 3, 1998 :
Division of :
Serial No. 08/702,977 : September 14, 1998
Filed: 08/26/96 : Attorney Docket A26996D1

METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR OPTIMIZING INTERFACIAL PROPERTIES OF
MAGNETORESISTIVE SENSORS

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

LETTER TO THE EXAMINER

Sir:

Patent application serial number 08/702,977 was filed August 26, 1996 with 104 claims. In response to a requirement for restriction, Claims 1-6, 9, 11, 19, 21-23, 25-33, 37, 40-41, 46, 49, 51-52, 77-78 and 80-81 were elected for prosecution and these 32 claims were allowed. The issue fee was paid and U.S. Patent 5,793,279 issued on August 11, 1998.

Prior to payment of the issue fee for this first set of allowed claims, a first divisional application was submitted on February 3, 1998 and filed with elected claims 53-55, 57-59, 61, 65, 67, 69-71, 73, 83-85, 93-95 and 99-104. However, no new serial number was assigned for this divisional application and the parent case serial number was used by the USPTO. These 25 claims were also allowed and an issue fee was sent with the issue fee transmittal form on August 10, 1998. Subsequently, I received the return of the transmittal form and the check for the issue fee covering the first divisional application with a notation on the mailing envelope that the "Fee was processed". Applicant then sent the issue transmittal form with USPTO markings and check no. 3717 for \$1320 for further processing and issuance of a patent for the 25 claims of the first divisional application. During a telephone conference with George

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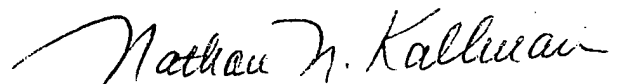
Poindexter on August 26, 1998 at (703) 305-8189, it was agreed that the issue fee payment be maintained by the USPTO pending the assignment of a new serial number for the first divisional application which was allowed. This was to avoid a notice of abandonment since the issue fee for the first divisional application was due by August 28, 1998.

During a telephone conversation with Examiner R. Patel on August 28, 1998, the problem of not having a new serial number for the divisional application was discussed. Applicant requested resolution of the problem and suggested that a new serial number be assigned to the allowed divisional application and that a new Notice of Allowance be issued for the 25 elected claims 53-55, 57-59, 61, 65, 67, 69-71, 73, 83-85, 93-95 and 99-104. The issue fee that has been paid may be applied.

In summary, Applicant is now requesting that a new Notice of Allowance be issued for the allowed first divisional application and that the issue fee which was kept by the USPTO, and is within the knowledge of George Poindexter, be applied thereto.

If there is any problem in this respect, please contact the undersigned at 408-867-1520, fax 408-867-9289, or E-mail at JCKJ35A@prodigy.com.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nathan N. Kallman".

NNK:el

Nathan N. Kallman